

DEPUTY PREMIER



MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT & MINISTER FOR FINANCE

JOHN WATKINS MP

NEWS RELEASE

DEPUTY PREMIER JOHN WATKINS TO RESIGN FROM PARLIAMENT

Wednesday 3rd September 2008

Deputy Premier and Minister for Transport John Watkins today announced he will resign as Deputy Premier, the Ministry and as the Member for Ryde.

Mr Watkins said the decision to resign had been very difficult.

"I've decided to resign after careful consideration with my wife, family and close friends.

"After more than 20 years of public life, over 13 years as a Member of Parliament and almost 10 as a Minister it is the right time to move on.

"It is a rare honour to be elected to Parliament and serve as a Minister and Deputy Premier and I have found my time as a Member and Minister exhilarating and at times exhausting, but also immensely satisfying.

"My family have had to increasingly take second place to my public duties and I believe now is the right time to get my work-life balance back in order," he said.

Mr Watkins said he will pursue opportunities outside the Government, possibly in the not-for-profit sector.

"I have had discussions with community organisations and will make an announcement in the coming weeks.

Mr Watkins has held eight different portfolios as a Minister, and had been Deputy Premier since August 2005.

He has served in three of the largest portfolios – Education, Police (twice) and Transport.

"I have had the privilege of being involved in some extraordinary events, including the staging of World Youth Day recently and APEC last year," Mr Watkins said.

"I regard the K-2 class reduction program as Minister for Education, the child protection reforms as Minister for Police and the availability of cheap public transport with the Pensioner Excursion Ticket and reform of the bus industry as Minister for Transport as achievements that have made a real difference to the people of New South Wales.

"I could have achieved nothing as a Minister without being the Member for Gladesville and then Ryde. That role has always brought me great satisfaction being able to make a difference in my local community.

"I leave proud of the local improvements over the past 13 years including the extra Police, improvements to Ryde Hospital, the rebuilding of our local schools and TAFE Colleges, the reconstruction of local rail stations and improvements to local transport.

“I want to thank the Premier and my Ministerial and Parliamentary colleagues for their comradeship and support.

“I want to especially acknowledge all those hard working staff members who have worked for me in my Ministerial and Electorate offices, and all the public servants I have had the privilege to work with during my time as a Minister.

“I especially acknowledge the constituents who have been so supportive of me over the years.

“And of course I give my deepest thanks to my wife Deborah and children Melanie, Sarah, Charles, Sophie and Xavier for their constant love and support,” he said.

Contact: Kate Mellis 0448 730 587

John Watkins – Parliamentary Career

Member for Gladesville	25 Mar 1995	5 Mar 1999	3yrs 11mths 9days
Member for Ryde	27 Mar 1999		
Minister for Fair Trading	8 Apr 1999	21 Nov 2001	2yrs 7mths 14days
Minister for Sport and Recreation	8 Apr 1999	21 Nov 2001	2yrs 7mths 14days
Minister for Corrective Services	12 Jan 2001	21 Nov 2001	10mths 10days
Minister for Education and Training	21 Nov 2001	2 Apr 2003	1yr 4mths 13days
Minister for Police	2 Apr 2003	21 Jan 2005	1yr 9mths 20days
Minister for Transport	21 Jan 2005		
Minister for State Development	3 Aug 2005	17 Feb 2006	6mths 15days
Deputy Premier	10 Aug 2005		
Minister for Police	26 Oct 2006	2 Apr 2007	5mths 8days
Minister for Finance	2 Apr 2007		